

METRO BOSTON HOMELAND SECURITY REGION

Monthly Newsletter June/July 2005, Volume 5



ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Guidance on Training Reimbursements Exercises

Based on feedback received by the Region's partners, the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security has recently revised its Training and Exercise Reimbursement Form for all MOHS approved training and exercises. Although still in the same Microsoft Excel format, new changes and additions include: an agency identifier; a discipline identifier (e.g., fire, police, public health, etc.); change in the date/time sequence for the activity; and signatures for the agency payroll director and agency CEO. An instruction form has also been prepared to assist our partners in completing the form, which must be *submitted directly to the appropriate Disciple Coordinator* once completed for review.

MOHS reimbursement forms are available electronically from MOHS. If you do not have the most current version of the form, please contact your Discipline Coordinator. The revised form and instructions will be available on the Homeland Security webpage soon.

Assessment of Administration & Finance Process

In response to the significant amount of homeland security equipment being procured for the Region's partner agencies across the nine jurisdictions, the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security has been working to improve the system of processing equipment requests, ordering and delivery.

Currently, the existing administration and finance system is being reviewed by an external agency in order to assess its existing functions, elements of the process that are efficient and working, and most importantly, elements of the process that are causing unneeded delays in getting the necessary homeland security equipment ordered and delivered, as well as training and exercise reimbursements issued in a timely fashion. As the City of Boston serves as the fiduciary for the FFY2003, FFY2004 and FFY2005 homeland security funding and coordinates the related activities for the Region, the City's administration and finance agencies are being pushed to limits not experienced before.

A survey was recently distributed to the Jurisdictional Points of contact to gain a greater understanding of the issues that are being experienced in the Region, and provided an opportunity to make suggestions. The survey responses will be part of the final assessment and recommendations, which MOHS expects by August.

Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN)

At the request of the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security, the Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC) deployed the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) during the July Fourth Celebration last weekend. HSIN is a web-based counter-terrorism communications system which provides real time situational awareness and communication between and across multiple agencies during an event, as well as immediate contact with the HSOC in Washington D.C. In its former version known as JRIES (Joint Regional Information Exchange System), the network was used by a number of state and local agencies last summer during the Democratic National Convention. Since that time, the system has undergone some significant IT and administrative upgrades at the federal level in order to be best utilized by public safety agencies throughout the country.

As per the directive of Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff, HSIN is being made available to UASI cities to be used for both daily information sharing and situational awareness, and special events at the federal, state and local levels. The HSIN Special Events portal has been used most recently in Los Angeles, Ft. Lauderdale, and the National Capitol Region for both special events and local investigations/events. As the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is looking to roll out the system on a statewide basis, the deployment provided representatives from Cambridge and Boston agencies (fire, police, EMS, emergency management) an opportunity to become familiar with the system and assess its functionality in a real time environment.

The Mayor's Office of Homeland Security would like to thank the Boston 4 Celebrations for allowing the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region's partners the ability to display the HSIN during the July 4th event, as well as the partners here in Boston and in Cambridge that showed interest in accessing the network and were able to monitor the system.

Metro Boston Homeland Security Website

The Mayor's Office of Homeland Security would like to invite our area partners to visit our web site at http://www.mbhsr.org on the City of Boston Web Page. The site is continuously being updated with news and reports on homeland security and the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region. This site is intended to serve the needs of the region. As such, we encourage the submission of information and any additions from your agency/jurisdiction. If there is anything you would like to add please feel free to submit it to: homeland.security@cityofboston.gov, or reach us through the website's Contact Page.

Jurisdiction Points of Contact Meetings

JPOC meetings have been scheduled through October. Please mark your calendar! If you can host an upcoming meeting please notify the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security at (617)-635-1400.

Massachusetts Archives Building, Boston – July 28, 2005 Boston – August 31, 2005 – *Possible date change* Chelsea – September 28, 2005 – *Possible date change* Brookline – October 26, 2005 – *Possible date change* No Location Identified – November 29, 2005 No Location Identified – December 29, 2005

If your jurisdiction or agency would like to host a JPOC meeting during the winter, beginning in November, please e-mail Homeland.Security@cityofboston.gov.

TRAINING UPDATES

NIMS Compliance – <u>Important, Please Read</u>

Effective October 1, 2006, receipt of homeland security grants from the federal government will become contingent on compliance with NIMS requirements. Metro-Boston will be ineligible for homeland security grants if NIMS compliance is not achieved.

NIMS Compliance – Initial Activities

The first steps toward NIMS compliance are to be completed by September 30, 2005. Like many areas around the country, we expect to achieve compliance incrementally. Achieving compliance will require a number of initial activities to take place during the next few months. These initial activities include:

- 1) Providing 4-6 hours of NIMS Awareness training for a large percentage of all government employees (not limited public safety employees).
- 2) Formal recognition of NIMS and adoption of NIMS principles and policies through Mayoral or other executive order; and
- 3) Institutionalizing the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) across our entire response system.

Over the next few months, the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security will be developing a comprehensive plan for achieving NIMS compliance and ensuring continued eligibility for the substantial homeland security funding that the federal government is making available. There will be certain aspects of NIMS compliance for which each of our jurisdictions will be individually accountable to the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Public Safety.

Initial training is slated to commence in August so it is important for us all to begin to raise awareness NOW. We will support the OT/backfill costs incurred to train eligible employees to the IS 700 standard. To reach the largest quantity of responders possible during a compressed time period and to ensure accountability our region will employ a three-pronged approach to accomplishing the initial NIMS training requirement:

• Lecture-Based Training

 6 hour training course offered three times weekly during August, September, and October. Auditorium style setting to enable large numbers of participants.
 Locations will rotate through the region.

Mobile Computer-Based Training

- o Traveling computer training lab (20+ workstations) which will visit each MBHSR community during the months of August, September, and October.
 - 2 Weeks (12 days): Cambridge, Quincy, Somerville
 - 1 Week (6 days): Brookline, Chelsea, Everett, Revere, Winthrop

• Stationary Computer-Based Training

 Stationary computer training lab (20+ workstations) located in Boston. Open 6 days each week for 12 hours each day (allowing three full rotations for the 4 hour computer based training).

NIMS Compliance – Frequently Asked Questions

The IS700 NIMS Course we're going through so much trouble to execute – who needs to take it? Executive Level – Political and government leaders, agency and organization administrators and department heads; personnel that fill ICS roles as Unified Commanders, Incident Commanders, Command Staff, General Staff in either Area Command or single incidents; senior level Multi-Agency Coordination System personnel; senior emergency managers; and Emergency Operations Center Command or General Staff.

Managerial Level – Agency and organization management between the executive level and first level supervision; personnel who fill ICS roles as Branch Directors, Division/Group Supervisors, Unit Leaders, technical specialists, strike team and task force leaders, single resource leaders and field supervisors; midlevel Multi-Agency Coordination System personnel; EOC Section Chiefs, Branch Directors, Unit Leaders; and other emergency management/response personnel who require a higher level of ICS/NIMS Training.

Responder Level – Emergency response providers and disaster workers, entry level to managerial level including Emergency Medical Service personnel; firefighters; medical personnel; police officers; public health personnel; public works/utility personnel; and other emergency management response personnel.

The NIMS introductory course very likely will be a requirement in FFY'06 for state, territorial, tribal and local personnel who have emergency assignments at any level of government. Full NIMS compliance is required by Oct. 1, 2006, (start of FFY 2007).

IS-700: Do responders already ICS trained have to take it?

Personnel who have already had ICS training should also take the NIMS awareness course. It will help them understand the NIMS, its principles and underlying components. IS-700 is basically an introduction to the NIMS. It's true that the course also focuses on ICS basics; however the course places ICS within the context of NIMS.

What does "institutionalizing the use of ICS" mean?

To "institutionalize the use of ICS" means that government officials, incident managers and emergency response organizations at all jurisdictional levels adopt the Incident Command

System and launch activities [in FY 2005] that will result in the use of the Incident Command System for all incident response operations.

Actions to institutionalize the use of ICS take place at two levels - policy and organizational/operational.

At the policy level, institutionalizing the ICS means government officials, i.e., governors, mayors, county and city managers, tribal leaders and others:

- 1. Adopt through the ICS through executive order, proclamation or legislation as the jurisdiction's official incident response system; and
- 2. Direct that incident managers and response organizations in their jurisdictions train, exercise, and use the ICS in their response operations.

At the organizational/operational level, evidence that incident managers and emergency response organizations are institutionalizing the ICS would include the following:

- 1. ICS is being integrated into functional and system-wide emergency operations policies, plans and procedures;
- 2. ICS training is planned or under way for responders, supervisors and command level officers;
- 3. Responders at all levels are participating in and/or coordinating ICS-oriented exercises that involve responders from multi-disciplines and jurisdictions.

While it is not expected that all these activities would be completed in FY2005, it is expected that where possible they will be and that, at a minimum, planning for such activities would be initiated and actions taken to put them into practice.

What should I be doing in my jurisdiction or agency to get ready for NIMS compliance? Here are 5 things you can do to be getting ready NIMS:

- 1. DO BE PREPARED NIMS developments over the next several months will be fast and furious. DHS is still crafting a lot of requirements related to compliance so some initial requirements may expand while others contract.
- 2. DO Raise awareness about the upcoming NIMS Training amongst your command staff and all of your field responders.
- 3. DO Start gathering data, based on the information above, about who will need to take the NIMS IS700 course in your agency/jurisdiction. For those who you will not need to bring in on overtime or backfill, send them to http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp NOW and have them take the IS700 course online.

- 4. DO Prepare data on OT and backfill costs for all ranks and departments who will need to take NIMS training on OT or backfill so that you are able to obtain preapproval for your trainees.
- 5. DO Join the region's NIMS Email List to stay on top of NIMS developments send a blank email to join-mbhsr-nims@listserv.cityofboston.gov

For more information, contact David Bibo – david.bibo@cityofboston.gov

Local Training Resources

General information concerning training provided by the DelValle Institute of Emergency Preparedness can be accessed at http://www.bphc.org/delvalle

Information on the availability of homeland security training sponsored by the State can be accessed at

http://www.mass.gov/portal/index.jsp?pageID=eopssubtopic&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Funding+% 26+Training+Opportunities&L2=Homeland+Security&L3=Training%2fCourses&sid=Eeops.

Please refer to the Subcommittee updates for specific information on training.

Specific requests for support for training must be made to the Mayor's Boston Office of Homeland Security. MOHS will submit all requests for training to the State/Federal agency on behalf of its regional partners.

PROJECT UPDATES

Operation Atlas

The Operation Atlas After-Action Report (AAR) is under development and will be briefed to the Planning Committee during the month of August. The AAR will then be distributed to stakeholders and, according to DHS Policy, improvement planning will commence to address identified deficiencies.

To learn more about the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), DHS' Exercise Doctrine, go to: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/hseep.htm

For more information, contact David Bibo – <u>david.bibo@cityofboston.gov</u>

Communications Interoperability

With the region-wide operational and technical assessment completed and analyzed, the Communications Interoperability Subcommittee (CIS) is in the process of developing a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan to improve the ability of the region's public safety responders to communicate information quickly and effectively.

During this past month, the Interoperability Support Team hired by the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security conducted focus groups with law enforcement, fire service, EMS, and

dispatch operations stakeholders. These sessions have been crucial in the development of the strategic plan, enabling the CIS to identify and further refine the initiatives that will comprise the strategic plan. Over the next couple of weeks, the CIS will finalize and prioritize these initiatives.

Make sure you're up to speed on interop – talk with your CIS representative!

CIS	Members
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Jurisdiction	Name	Jurisdiction	Name
Boston	Athena Yerganian, Boston PD	BAPERN	Dave Troup, Boston PD
Brookline	Scott Wilder, Brookline PD	CMED	Brendan Kearney, Boston EMS
Cambridge	George Fosque, Camb. ECC	MBTA	Chris Cowley, MBTA PD
Chelsea	Chuck Fothergill, Chelsea FD	Massport	Bryan Corbett, MPA Comms.
Everett	Scott Wilder, Everett FD	Metro-Fire	Gerry Reardon, Camb. FD
Quincy	Tom Gorman, Quincy EMA	MSP/EOPS	Blair Sutherland, MSP
Revere	Jay Mazzola, Revere FD		
Somerville	Tom Graney, Somerville FD		
Winthrop	Paul Flanagan, Winthrop FD		

For more information, contact David Bibo – <u>david.bibo@cityofboston.gov</u>

Emergency Operations Centers

Beginning at the end of July, the EOC Evaluations Team hired by the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security will begin its assessment of the region's existing EOCs. These assessments will focus on two areas: 1) ensuring each EOC has the required capabilities for decision support and situational awareness and 2) ensuring each EOC is prepared to support and interoperate with the region's other EOCs and, eventually, the region's Homeland Security Integration Center.

A critical component of the team's evaluation will be its review of SOPs, plans, and other documents that give your EOC structure, authority, and operating guidelines. In addition, the team will be exploring specifically how our EOCs provide decision support so it is important to provide the team with documents related to command and control and incident planning. While we acknowledge that there may be sensitivity around disclosing this information it is critical to the success of the evaluations. Please note that all team members are required to enter into comprehensive non-disclosure agreements in addition to possessing security clearances exceeding standards widely accepted for this type of work.

OHS staff will be in touch with you in the coming weeks to obtain documentation and to schedule your EOC site visit.

For more information, contact David Bibo – <u>david.bibo@cityofboston.gov</u>

Homeland Security Community Awareness Training

The Mayor's Office of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Boston Police Department, is developing a community based homeland security and anti-terrorism awareness training for residents, civic associations and neighborhood groups. Using the existing community outreach programming in place within the Boston Police, the awareness training will be developed to

include a complete curriculum, as well as several smaller modules, providing agencies the ability to adopt all or part of the program and incorporate it into existing training/outreach initiatives. Representatives from Boston EMS, the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Fire, the Mayor's 24-Hour Constituent Line, the City of Boston's Office of Neighborhood Development, and the Brookline Police Department have been invited to provide additional comment during the curriculum development, in order to ensure feedback from the many agencies/disciplines that interact with residents.

If you'd like to know more and may be interested in implementing the training once its completed, or would like to contribute comments during the course development, please contact Sara Phillips at sara.phillips@cityofboston.gov.

DISCIPLINE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The Regional EMS Discipline Subcommittee met on two separate occasions during the month of May (May 10th and May 24th) and once during the month of June (14th). Major topics of discussion included the need to send EMS personnel on a regular basis to the 24 hour WMD training at the DelValle Institute and to begin to think about possible participants for the latest IMT-3 training initiative that the Mayor's Boston Office of Homeland Security is providing coordinating. Several training initiatives recognized nationally from the Office of Domestic Preparedness were also viewed and the Subcommittee has been tasked to make a decision on various trainings within the catalogue that would be included in a comprehensive 2005 training agenda.

Currently, the EMS equipment requested in FFY 2003 has begun to arrive in various jurisdictions and the subcommittee members have been asked to keep active records as to which equipment has or has not been received. The forwarding of all invoices and packing slips for various pieces of equipment to the EMS Discipline Coordinator has been requested. Currently, the committee is working toward developing a detailed exercise strategy plan that would establish exercise priorities for the EMS discipline and tentative delivery dates of proposed exercises over the next two years. More information will follow on this latest initiative as further details are established in the coming weeks.

Finally, the subcommittee has also been actively engaged in the resubmission of project plan proposals that were returned to the group in May on a provisionally approved basis. Several project plan proposals have been resubmitted to the MBOHS and are pending approval. These proposals include projects detailing the support for regional MCI trailers and prime movers, a Phase Response/Hospital Surge consultant group, and standardized equipment (PPE, BLS and Oxygen kits) to be deployed onto all UASI EMS provider ambulances and fire apparatus.

Upcoming Trainings

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Health Care Workers July $11-13^{th}$

August 15-17th

All courses are sponsored by the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness All courses start at 8:00 am, registration begins at 7:30.

Upcoming Meetings

Friday, July 8th at the Cataldo Training Facility in Chelsea from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Week of July 25th. Actual date, time and location TBD

For more information concerning the Regional EMS Discipline Subcommittee, please contact Jonathan Dillon at <u>jonthan.dillon@cityofboston.gov</u>.

Fire Services/HazMat

The Fire Service Subcommittee has continued to work towards a number of regional initiatives that have been identified as critical and short term goals.

Regional Planning Committee

Members of the Fire Subcommittee continue to meet regarding the establishment of standard operating procedures for UASI departments in the event of a WMD/CBRNE incident. An assessment / evaluation form will be distributed to all committee members in the coming months, which once completed, will allow for a more comprehensive overview of the capacities of the UASI Region's fire departments.

Upcoming Training

WMD / Radiological Awareness Course

To date, 50 courses have been completed, totaling approximately 1,400 fire personnel from throughout the region. Dates are aggressively scheduled throughout the month on July, and the goal is to have all 2,700+ personnel in the region trained by mid August.

WMD Operations Course

The subcommittee is working on a proposal to train one company from each UASI jurisdiction (approximately 200 personnel) in an ODP approved 24-hour WMD Radiological Operations course. This training would build off of the Awareness level course being completed by all personnel in the region. The Fire Chiefs hope to develop a running-card system whereby those trained to this level are identified and can be called upon in the event of a radiological incident. This training would take place in January of 2006.

Chemical Protective Clothing (CPC) Course

The subcommittee has identified CPC training as an immediate and critical need for regional firefighters. A proposal and budget is being composed for OHS, whereby an ODP-approved 8-hour course would be utilized. The goal would be to receive approval for a Train-the-Trainer session, and deliver the course in-house starting in September 2005.

Upcoming Meetings

Friday, July 8th – 12:30PM Fire Committee Interoperable Meeting Cataldo Training Center, Chelsea

Wednesday, July 27th – 10:15AM at the Mass Archives building.

For more information concerning the Regional Fire Service Subcommittee, please contact Mike Colanti at Michael. Colanti@cityofboston.gov.

Law Enforcement

The major task of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee (LEC) has been pursuing the proposed regional surveillance system, explained further below. Equipment supported with FFY04 homeland security funds has started to be shipped from the respective vendors. *Upon receipt of any equipment, please notify Adam Wehrenberg, Law Enforcement Coordinator either by email notification or by faxing or mailing a packing slip or invoice*. The LEC has also sent letters to Police Chiefs and Commissioners in the region soliciting interest in a regional Tactical Response Plan as well, an initiative that remains in its infant stages at this point.

Regional Port/Anti-Terrorism Surveillance Project

The Subcommittee's project of devising a web-based surveillance system continues to gain momentum. The focus on this project is to provide surveillance to the Port of Boston, and also to focus on areas of the region pertinent to the protection and prevention of targets from terrorism-related activities. Following a visit to the City of Chicago's Office of Emergency Communications in May and the Federal Protective Service (FPS) system located in the JFK Building in Boston, the Subcommittee has gotten a firm handle on the direction of this project. The workgroup to date has produced a rough proposal from which the RFP can ultimately be built from.

The project has been broken down to address three current stages of development across the region; (1) those jurisdictions that have a current, running surveillance system of their own (Boston, Everett, Chelsea); (2)those who have funding already earmarked or systems partially installed (Revere); (3) and those who have no surveillance infrastructure (Brookline, Cambridge, Quincy, Somerville, Winthrop).

The system will have the makeup of individual surveillance systems, tied together at a central hub, likely using microwave technology. FPS has offered the region use of its infrastructure as a temporary solution for tying its system together at no cost.

David H. Smith of Trident Consulting has been working closely with Adam Wehrenberg, Law Enforcement Coordinator, and with the Subcommittee to assess the capabilities of the region and the capabilities of vendors and components to meet these needs. In the past few weeks, they have met with representatives of each jurisdiction individually to address the current and next steps towards completing this initiative. To date, lists of potential locations in each of the UASI cities and towns have been submitted, and will be assessed as the final RFP is constructed.

Trainings

The DelValle Institute has added new dates through the end of 2005 for 24-hour Law Enforcement WMD Awareness training. For information on these dates and on registration, please contact Adam Wehrenberg at the email address below.

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Law Enforcement (24-hour)

July 27-29,	4:00 PM - 12:00 AM	Boston
Aug. 8-10	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Boston
Aug. 22-24	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Everett
Aug. 31 – Sept. 2	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Boston

WMD Refresher Course (8-hour)

July 21	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Boston
August 1	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Boston

Locations

Boston: Everett:

Miranda-Creamer Building Everett Police Department

35 Northampton Street
Boston, MA
45 Elm Street
Everett, MA

Upcoming Meetings

The Subcommittee will be meeting with representatives from Touchstone at the Brookline Public Safety Building at 11:30 AM on Wednesday, July 6.

The next Law Enforcement Subcommittee meeting will be held at the Public Safety Office in the CambridgeSide Galleria at 1PM on July 21, 2005.

For more information concerning the Regional Law Enforcement Subcommittee, please contact Adam Wehrenberg at Adam. Wehrenberg@cityofboston.gov.

Public Health

The Public Health Subcommittee held its May meeting at the Brookline Public Health Department on May 26th. The Subcommittee discussed the returned draft proposals that were submitted to the Mayor's Boston Office of Homeland Security. While the Mayor's Boston Office of Homeland Security (MBOHS) agreed the proposals had merit, there were still questions regarding costs and timelines associated with the projects. The Public Health Coordinator revised the proposals and is working with MOHS to ensure all outstanding issues have been addressed.

Dr. Kathy Brinsfield (Boston EMS) gave an over view of the IMT3 (Incident Management Team) training at the May 26th meeting. The overall goal of USFA's (United States Fire Administration) Incident Management Team (IMT) program is to develop state and regional IMTs to function under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) during a large and/or

complex incident or a major event. The Public Health Subcommittee expressed interest in sending a group to the training which is tentatively scheduled for October or November.

The Public Health Coordinator distributed descriptions of ODP (Office for Domestic Preparedness) approved trainings that the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness is planning to facilitate for the Mayor's Boston Office of Homeland Security Region. Initial Subcommittee feedback has been positive.

The Public Health Subcommittee held its June meeting on the 15th at the Wellesley Gateway. At the meeting the Subcommittee discussed the successes and challenges posed by the June 4th Operation Atlas Full Scale Exercise. It was universally acknowledged that increased efforts needed to be made within the Subcommittee in regards to communications and area partners are committed to increasing their efforts in that area.

In matters of purchase and delivery of the FFY 2003 equipment, the Public Health Coordinator has assured area partners that MBOHS is making every effort to streamline this process. Improvements have already been made in many areas, including the tracking of equipment and notification to area partners regarding delivery.

Although not currently funded through the UASI grant, the Boston Public Health Commission and other area partners have been cordially invited by the Cambridge Health Alliance to participate in a pandemic flu tabletop exercise. Lynn Schoeff of the Cambridge Health Alliance will be working in conjunction with the Advanced Practice Center to develop the exercise and hopes to run the exercise in early October. Lynn can be reached at 617 665 2300, ext. 3822 or by e mail: lschoeff@challiance.org

Trainings

Advanced WMD/Hazardous Materials Technician Course (40hrs)

September 12th-16th. (Open enrollment class)

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Health Care Workers(24hrs)

July 11th-13th.

August 15th-17th

September 19th-21st. (NEW - This will be an Evening class from 4:00 PM - Midnight)

October 24th-26th.

November 28th-30th.

December 19th-21st.

8 Hour WMD/Hazmat Refresher Course

(Course is for 8hr, 24hr, & 40hr candidates needing annual refresher)

July 21st.

August 1st.

September 9th.

October 21st.

November 4th.

December 22nd

All courses are sponsored by the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness All courses start at 8:00 am unless otherwise listed, registration begins at 7:30.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Subcommittee meeting will be held at The Wellesley Gateway, July, 20th between 1:00-2:30.

For more information concerning the Regional Public Health Subcommittee, please contact Liam Seward at Liam_Seward@bphc.org.

Health Care

The Health Care Subcommittee has been working to finalize contracts between the City of Boston and the hospitals within the UASI regions. The contracts will serve to establish a relationship between the city and the hospitals for reimbursement of staff overtime/backfill costs for trainings, drills, and exercises.

The Subcommittee has also been undertaking steps to implement its proposals which received approval from the Mayor's Boston Office of Homeland Security; this process includes establishing a policy on the use of the soon-to-be-purchased regional personal protective equipment (PPE) stockpiles and working with the IT departments of the individual hospitals and with Boston EMS and the Boston Public Health Commission to establish the parameters for the patient tracking software and to help ensure a smooth integration of that system with the current EMS and hospital IT systems.

The Subcommittee is also preparing for the integration of its monthly meetings into a megameeting day with three other health care/public health-focused committees. The overlap of membership in each group, the commonality of many of their goals, and now their physical proximity, creates an ideal opportunity for cooperation and collaboration across agencies, committees, and grant funding streams. The first meeting of that group will take place in July.

Trainings, Classes, Lectures and Conferences

Level B 24 Hour Training

July 11th-13th

August 15th-17th

September 19th-21st (NEW! Class
runs 4:00 PM to Midnight)

October 24th-26th

November 28th-30th

December 19th-21st

Level C 8 Hour PAPR Training

(All are hospital site trainings, run 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM)

Upcoming Meetings

The Health Care Committee has met regularly for the past few months on the second Tuesday from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM. The site of the meeting has rotated throughout the region's hospitals. Last month's meeting occurred on Tuesday June 14th at Faulkner Hospital.

Starting in July, the Health Care Subcommittee will coordinate its meeting schedule with that of the Region 4C Surge Planning Group, COBTH Disaster Committee, and Boston MMRS meetings. The four groups, most of which have overlapping membership, will meet on the third Thursday of the month from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, with the Health Care Committee likely maintaining its current 8:00-10:00 AM timeslot.

The first meeting, on July 21st, will be held in the O'Neil Conference Room at Boston EMS/DelValle Institute. The meeting schedule for the remainder of 2005 is as follows:

August 18th Brigham & Women's Hospital, likely ED Conference Room

September 15th Faulkner Hospital, Atrium Conference Room

October 20th Mass Eye & Ear Infirmary, Executive Board Room

November 17th Faulkner Hospital, Atrium Conference Room

December 15th Brigham & Women's Hospital, likely ED Conference Room

For more information concerning the Regional Health Care Subcommittee, please contact Timothy McDonald by emailing tim.mcdonald@cityofboston.gov or by calling 617.414.1886